United Nations A/53/680

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 November 1998
English
Original: Arabic

**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 163

# Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone

## Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 25th and 29th meetings, on 12 and 18 November 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.25 and 29).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (A/53/454) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/654).

## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.14

4. At the 29th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Canada and coordinator of informal consultations on the item introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone" (A/C.5/53/L.14), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.14 without a vote (see para. 7).

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6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of position was made by the representative of Pakistan (see A/C.5/53/SR.29).

## III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

*Bearing in mind* Security Council resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone for an initial period of six months, until 13 January 1999,

*Recognizing* that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recognizing also* that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

*Taking into account* the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

*Bearing in mind* the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

*Noting with appreciation* that voluntary contributions have been made to the Observer Mission,

*Mindful* of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under Security Council resolution 1181 (1998),

1. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

2. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone in full and on time;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

[1] A/53/454.
[2] A/53/654.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to employ locally recruited staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Observer Mission;

6. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 22 million United States dollars gross (21,279,800 dollars net) for the establishment and operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of the cost of deploying military and civilian personnel in the amount of 783,700 dollars gross (768,100 dollars net) for the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998 and of the amount of 10,624,200 dollars gross (10,409,500 dollars net) previously authorized by the Advisory Committee for the period from 13 July to 13 November 1998, and requests the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Observer Mission;

7. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 12,926,600 dollars gross (12,610,300 dollars net) for the period from 13 July 1998 to 13 January 1999 in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

8. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 316,300 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 13 July 1998 to 13 January 1999;

9. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 9,073,400 dollars gross (8,669,500 dollars net) for the period from 14 January to 30 June 1999 at a monthly rate of 1,620,250 dollars gross (1,548,125 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 13 January 1999;

10. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 403,900 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 14 January to 30 June 1999;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone".